BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

WELLINGBOROUGH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL, 1908.

ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health,

BY

FRED H. MORRIS, M.D.,
Fel. Royal Inst. of Public Health,

And the Sanitary Inspector,

GEORGE BAYES.

RUSHDEN:
CHAS. CROSS, "ECHO" OFFICE.

Wellingborough Rural District Council.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour of submitting to your notice the Annual Report upon the Health of the Wellingborough Rural District.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

F. H. MORRIS,

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1908.

The Wellingborough Rural District consists of two sub-divisions, viz., the Wellingborough and the Higham Ferrers, with an estimated population of 13,917, the Wellingborough containing 6,380, and the Higham Ferrers 7,537. The inhabitants are principally employed in the boot and shoe manufacture, and others in agricultural pursuits. The increase of the population has been 15 in the Wellingborough and 108 in the Higham Ferrers district.

Births.

The registered births have been 282 for the whole district—126 in the Wellingborough district, and 156 in the Higham Ferrers district, giving a birth-rate of 20·26 per 1000.

Deaths.

One hundred and forty-three deaths have been registered —sixty-six in the Wellingborough and seventy-seven in the Higham Ferrers district, thus giving the low death-rate from all causes of 10·79 per 1000, or 10·3 in the Wellingborough and 10·22 in the Higham Ferrers district.

Infantile Mortality.

Seven cases of premature birth have been registered—two in the Wellingborough district and five in the Higham Ferrers.

The infant mortality has been 138·3 per 1000 for the whole district, or 141·26 in the Wellingborough and 134·6 in the Higham Ferrers district. This is much too high, although instructions as to feeding have been circulated through the district.

Zymotic Diseases.

Fifty-six cases of infectious diseases have been notified during the year—thirty-nine in the Wellingborough district and seventeen in the Higham Ferrers district.

Small-pox.—No case has been reported. Vaccination has been efficiently carried out. Some have taken advantage of the conscientious clause, thereby endangering the community at large.

Scarlet Fever.—Thirty-three cases have been notified, with no death. The disease must have been of a mild type.

Diphtheria.—Three cases were notified in the Higham Ferrers district, one being six months; no death.

Whooping Cough is not notifiable. Six deaths have been registered—three in the Wellingborough district and three in the Higham Ferrers district.

Enteric Fever.—Five cases have been reported—four in the Wellingborough, one death, and one in the Higham Ferrers district.

Erysipelas.—Fifteen cases have been reported—five in the Wellingborough and 10 in the Higham Ferrers district. No death has occurred.

Influenza.—Not notifiable. Two deaths have occurred—one in the Wellingborough district and one in the Higham Ferrers district.

Puerperal Fever.—No case has occurred.

Diarrhœa and Enteritis.—One death has been registered.

Respiratory Diseases.

Bronchitis and Pneumonia have caused 28 deaths—16 in the Wellingborough district and 12 in the Higham Ferrers district, 12 of which have been under one year of age, and nine over 65 years.

Phthisis has caused twelve deaths—five in the Wellingborough district, and seven in the Higham Ferrers district. All the houses have been disinfected after death and every means to prevent contagion adopted.

Heart Disease.

Seventeen deaths have been registered—seven in the Wellingborough district, ten in the Higham Ferrers district.

Cancer and Malignant Disease

have been responsible for ten deaths—two in the Wellingborough and eight in the Higham Ferrers district.

Alcoholism and Cirrhosis of the Liver.

No death has been reported.

There have been two deaths from accidents—one in the Wellingborough district and one in the Higham Ferrers district. Two suicides have been registered, both in the Wellingborough district.

Water Supply.

In April last there was a Government inquiry at Isham respecting the water supply. The loan has been sanctioned and the work will shortly commence. Arrangements are being made for the Irchester and Wollaston Parishes to obtain a constant supply of water from the Rushden and Higham Ferrers Water Board. Several samples of water from wells have been examined. Those which proved unfit for use have been closed.

Drainage.

A Local Government Board inquiry as to the drainage was held at Wilby and the scheme recommended is about to be commenced. All the sewage farms have been frequently inspected and are in a satisfactory condition. Wollaston will shortly require to be enlarged.

Remarks.

I have nothing further to say about the prevention of Phthisis. Building Sanatoria for the treatment is not preventive any more than removing Lunatics to Asylums prevents Insanity, which is far more on the increase than Consumption. Small Holdings, Afforestation, etc., by inducing outdoor employment on the land and thereby reducing the congestion of the towns will do far more towards prevention than any Sanatoria treatment. Everyone must admit that Insanity has largely increased during the last few years and is still increasing, yet no one has recommended building more Asylums for prevention. As I have previously stated, we must lead a more natural life, free from the various excitements of the present day, if we hope to prevent the increase of both Consumption and Insanity.

There has been a considerable increase in Infant Mortality, although everything possible has been done in instructing mothers as to the proper feeding of infants and cards containing instructions as to feeding have been distributed, but, alas, with no result. The mortality has increased.

There have also been discussions as to the prevention and cure of Cancer, the deaths from which have almost equalled Phthisis. The only practical result has been the recommending thorough removal as the only possible cure.

All factories, workshops, workplaces, dairies, cowsheds, etc., have been regularly visited at intervals, and kept in a satisfactory state. The low death-rate, 10·79, is sufficient evidence that the district has been well looked after and the sanitary state attended to.

In my monthly reports I have notified the following cases:—The drainage of two cottages at Hardwick Lodge, the farmyard and cowsheds at Hardwick Grange and Felce's farm, Bozeat, and ten cottages at Bozeat; and two cottages at Owen's yard, Great Doddington; seven houses at Newton Bromshold; three of which have been pulled down, three closed, and one repaired; road at Sunnyside, Earls Barton; twelve houses at Irchester unfit for habitation; one at Earls Barton in same condition; one case of overcrowding at Earls Barton; the drainage of cowsheds at Simpson's farm at Wilby.

I have to thank your Inspector for the valuable assistance he has rendered, without which it would be impossible to carry out our duties.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

FRED H. MORRIS, M.D.,

Fel. Royal Inst. of Public Health.

February, 1909.

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SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31st, 1908.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF
THE WELLINGBOROUGH.
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

24, Grifpith Street,
Rushden,
February, 1909.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour of submitting for your consideration my report of the Sanitary condition of your District for the year ending 31st December, 1908.

I am, Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,
GEORGE BAYES,
Sanitary Inspector.

Wellingborough Rural District Council.

Infectious Diseases.

A total of 56 cases of infectious disease has been notified during the year, viz., 33 cases of Scarlet Fever, 15 cases of erysipelas, five cases of typhoid or enteric fever, and three cases of diphtheria. The dwellings and bedding have been fumigated after convalescence, and in some cases bedding was destroyed and compensation given.

Table shewing cases of infections in each Parish :—

Table shewing Cases of Infections in each Parish.				
District.	*Scarlet.*	*Typhoid.*	*Eyysipelas.*	*Diphtheria.*
Bozeat	1	0	2	0
Ecton	0	0	0	0
Earls Barton	17	3 (1 death)	5	0
Easton Maudit ..	0	0	0	0
Doddington	0	0	0	0
Grendon	0	0	0	0
Harrowden Great ..	0	0	0	0
Harrowden Little ..	7	0	0	0
Hardwick	1	0	0	0
Irchester	1	0	3	0
Irchester Little ..	1	1	0	3
Isham	2	0	0	0
Mears Ashby ..	0	0	0	0
Newton Bromshold..	0	0	0	0
Orlingbury	3	0	0	0
Sywell..	0	0	1	0
Strixton	0	0	0	0
Wilby	0	1	0	0
Wollaston	0	0	4	0
	33	5	15	3

Dwelling Houses.

Six new houses have been erected during the year, 29 dwellings put in repair, three dilapidated ones abolished, 12 closed, five overcrowding cases and six filthy dwellings dealt with.

During the year 1907 complaints were made to the L. and N.W. Railway Co., calling their immediate attention to the insanitary and insufficient closet accommodation at the Wellingborough Station in the Parish of Irchester. The old arrangements were cleared out and a new set of conveniences are now in thorough working order, sufficient w.c.'s provided for both sexes, and new ladies' and gent.'s waiting rooms have been erected, where before, was little better than an open shed. The travelling public greatly appreciate the improvement.

House Drainage

has received careful attention. In many cases very serious defects were discovered and the drains taken up and re-laid; in some cases new drainage throughout has been provided. An extension to the sewer has been laid at Little Irchester by your Surveyor.

One hundred and thirty-four Preliminary Notices have been served to owners or agents re nuisances. In nearly the whole of the cases nuisances were abated at once. In seven cases I reported the matter to you and acting on your instructions served the Statutory Notices. It was not necessary to take proceedings in any case.

Foul Accumulations.

Foul accumulations and several animals have been removed, including swine and poultry; four pigstyes and ashpits closed, portable receptacles being substituted; three cesspits filled in, and closets connected to sewer. At Isham there remains a few privy cesspits, but owing to the delay with the water scheme it would not be wise to connect with the sewer. The sooner the water scheme is proceeded with the better.

Sewage Farms

and the various outfalls have been regularly inspected and I am pleased to report that as a whole they are well managed and working satisfactorily. The Isham Farm is now in splendid working order.

Factory and Workshops Act, 1901.

Two notices were received from H.M. Inspector of Factories calling attention to the fact that the factory occupied by T. Brown and Sons, Irchester, had not sufficient means of escape in case of fire. The second complaint called attention to an insanitary stable and filthy cesspool and foul accumulation of manure near workshop belonging to Mrs. Miller, Prince-street, Earls Barton. In the Irchester case I visited and suggested an exit from the top floor through one of the back windows on to a landing stage (to be fixed) with a rail round same for protection ; from the landing stage, an iron ladder to the outside floor on the second landing, thence down existing ladder to the ground. In the Barton case all foul accumulation was cleared away, stable used as a shed for storage of boxes, etc., new stable and w.c. erected. It is now considered satisfactory.

Home Work.—In February 21 Lists of Outworkers were received relating to 1,013 outworkers, viz., 662 men, 351 women. In August 19 lists were received, relating to 976 outworkers—683 men, 293 women. A very large number of these names appear on several of the lists, shewing that they take in work from more than one employer. Factories, workshops, and workplaces have been visited periodically during the year. Matters requiring attention have been brought to the notice of the employers and remedied.

Bakehouses have been visited and with two or three exceptions were found satisfactory and in these cases white-washing was at once attended to.

Dairies, cowsheds, and milkshops have been regularly inspected, and improved drainage, light, and ventilation have been made at several of the farm premises. The dairies throughout the district are clean and well kept. Improved cowsheds at Mr. Simpson's farm, Wilby. When I find it necessary I am empowered to call in the assistance of a Veterinary Surgeon to examine the udders or certify as to whether animals are suffering from tuberculous disease.

Food and Drugs Act.

No seizure has been made under the Food and Drugs Act, although regular inspections have been made.

Slaughter Houses.

Slaughter houses have been kept in a cleanly and satisfactory condition.

The drainage and sanitary arrangements at all the schools throughout the district have been well looked after. A splendid block of new schools have been opened at Irchester, and new drainage and w.c.'s have been provided at Easton Maudit. The sanitary arrangements at some of the schools is anything but satisfactory.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

GEORGE BAYES,

Sanitary Inspector.

Annual report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1908, for the Rural District of Wellingborough,

on the administration of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, in connection with

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS, WORKPLACES AND HOMEWORK.

1.—INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

Premises. (1)	Number of Inspections. (2)	Number of Written Notices (3)	Number of Prosecutions. (4)
Factories ... ... (Including Factory Laundries)	74	9	
Workshops ... ... (Including Workshop Laundries)	104	13	
Workplaces ... ... (Other than Outworkers' premises included in Part 3 of this Report)	68	11	
Total	246	33	

2.—DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

Particulars. (1)	Number of Defects. Found. (2)	Rem-edied. (3)	Referr'd to H.M. Inspect'r (4)	Number of Prose-cutions. (5)
*Nuisances under the Public Health Acts:—**				
Want of cleanliness	17	17		
Want of ventilation	Nil.			
Overcrowding	Nil.			
Want of drainage of floors	Nil.			
Other nuisances	11	11		
Sanitary accommodation — insufficient	3	3		
Sanitary accommodation — unsuitable or defective ..	4	4		
Sanitary accommodation — not separate for sexes ..	Nil.			
Offences under the Factory and Workshop Act:—				
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouse (s. 101)	Nil.			
Breach of special sanitary requirements for bakehouses (ss. 97 to 100)	5	5	2	
Other offences .. .. (Excluding offences relating to outwork which are included in Part 3 of this report) ..				
Total	40	40	2	

*Including those specified in sections 2, 3, 7 and 8, of the Factory and Workshop Act as remediable under the Public Health Acts.